

COVID-19 and Human Rights: Perspectives on Socio-economic Rights and Violence

Speakers



CHRISTOF HEYNS

Christof Heyns is Professor of Law at the University of Pretoria. He also teaches at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law. He is a member of the UN Human Rights Committee and a member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights' Working Group on the Death Penalty, Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Killings and Enforced

Disappearances in Africa. He is also a Member of ASSAf. He was UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions 2010 – 2016.



RACHEL JEWKES

Professor Rachel Jewkes is the Executive Scientist for Research Strategy in the South African Medical Research Council, an A1 rated scientist. She is the former director of the SAMRC's Gender and Health Research Unit and over the last 6 years she has been the Consortium Director of the What Works to Prevent Violence? Global Programme, leading research on prevention of violence against women in 13 countries.

She has been the Secretary of the global Sexual Violence Research Initiative for 15 years and is a member of the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Injury and Violence Prevention and Control. She is an author of over 350 publications.



SANDY LIEBENBERG

Prof Sandra Liebenberg (BA LLB (UCT); LLM cum laude (Essex); LLD (Witwatersrand)) is HF Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law and Distinguished Professor in the Faculty of Law, University of Stellenbosch. She previously served as Chair of the Technical Committee advising the Constitutional Assembly on the drafting of the Bill of Rights in the 1996 Constitution of South Africa. She serves on the editorial boards of a number of human rights law journals in South Africa and abroad and has also served on the board of directors of a number of national and international NGOs active in the field of socio-economic rights. She has been involved in public interest litigation and advocacy in the area of socio-economic rights for a number

of years. Prof Liebenberg has published widely in the field of socio-economic rights, and is the author of the monograph, *Socio-Economic Rights: Adjudication under a Transformative Constitution* (2010, Juta & Co) and co-editor of *Law and Poverty: Perspectives from South Africa and Beyond* (Juta & Co, 2011). In December 2014, she received the University of Stellenbosch's top accolade, a Chancellor's Award, for her contribution to community service in the field of law in South Africa. She is member of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the period 2017 – 2020 and serves as Vice-Chair for the period 2019 – 2020.

CHRISTOPHER MBAZIRA



Dr. Christopher Mbazira is an Associate Professor of Law and Principal of the School of Law, Makerere University. He is also the Coordinator of the Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC) at the same School. He previously chaired the Rule of Law Committee of the Uganda Law Society. Prof. Mbazira has written and spoken widely on the subject of socio-economic rights in the context of the judicial application of these rights. Prof. Mbazira has attended and presented at a number of international seminars, workshops, and conferences. He is the author of the title: *Litigating Socio-economic rights in South Africa: A Choice between corrective and distributive justice* (2009) and several journal articles including

'Enforcement of Socio-Economic Rights in South Africa: Strengthening the reasonableness approach' 26 *Nordic Journal of Human Rights* 131; 'From ambivalence to certainty: Norms and principles for the structural interdict in socio-economic rights litigation in South Africa' 24 *South African Journal on Human Rights* 1. He is one of the 9 law academics who filed the ground breaking Amicus Curiae application in the 2016 Presidential Elections Petition in the Supreme Court of Uganda. Prof. Mbazira holds an LLB from Makerere University, an LLM in Human Rights from the University of Pretoria and a PhD from the University of Pretoria and a PhD from the University of the Western Cape in South Africa. He teaches public international law and international and regional human rights law and is a founding member of the Network of Public Interest Law Lawyers. In 2015, he was a co-recipient of the Vera Chirwa Award given by the Center for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, for his outstanding contribution in the promotion of socio-economic rights in Africa. He is also a keen promoter of public interest litigation in Uganda. He was recently admitted as a Fellow of the Uganda National Academy of Sciences.